REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment claims 31-49 will be pending in the application. Claims 1-31 are canceled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in one or more continuing or divisional applications. Claims 32-49 are new, support for which can be found, for example, in claims 22-30 as originally filed. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants' response to the Examiner's restriction requirement is as follows.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims to one of the following groups.

Group I claims 1-23, drawn to the compounds in claim 1, pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines and compositions thereof.

Group II claims 24-30, drawn to a method of using the compounds of Group (I).

According to the Examiner, the application contains inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. However, in order to be completely responsive, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, claims 31-34 and 41-43 drawn to compounds and pharmaceutical compositions comprising 3-(2-methoxy-4-pyrazol-1-yl-phenyl)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

Applicants submit that the compounds, compositions and methods of treatment of the instant invention are so linked so as to form a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Applicants assert that the compounds all share the same pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine core and are useful in treating disorders manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a mammal. Since the claimed invention arose from a singular research effort, the compounds, compositions and methods of treatment should be considered parts of a single application. Furthermore, the instant invention was filed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. as a national stage filing of a PCT patent application. Thus, the standard applicable is not one of restriction practice under U.S. guidelines but of Unity of Invention under the PCT. In the instant case no lack of Unity of Invention was found by the International Searching Authority or the International Preliminary Examining Authority and all claims were searched and examined as one invention.

Moreover, given that the claims have been limited to 3-(2-methoxy-4-pyrazol-1-yl-phenyl)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine, Applicants

respectfully assert that it would not be a serious burden to examine the compound, pharmaceutical compositions, and methods of treating depression, anxiety–related disorders, and irritable bowel syndrome in the same application.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants' respectfully request that the restriction of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

This reply is intended to fully respond to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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